

----Original Message-----

From (b) (6) CTR OPNAV, N2N6E Sent: Friday, March 23, 2018 5:39 AM

To: (b) (6) CDR CSP, N30N

Cc: (b) (6) CAPT COMSUBGRU 9, N3

Subject: FW: Marine Scientific Research Request 2018 IWC Cetacean Sighting Survey in the North Pacific

U2018-002

### (b) (6)

I know that you also receive MSR requests. FYSA, below is some amplifying information I requested on the sonobuoys being used for the proposed Marine Scientific Research Request 2018 IWC Cetacean Sighting Survey in the North Pacific U2018-002

\_\_\_\_\_

1. Type, make and model of the sonobuoys

They will all be either Sparton or Undersea Sensor Systems (manufacturer), and will be either 53E or 53F directional sonobuoys (type).

2. How many will be used?

Over the 60 day survey, no more than 240 sonobuoys will be deployed (it will likely be considerably less).

3. Deployment locations

Deployment locations will be along the trackline taken by the vessel, at least every 25 nmi.

4. Deployment timeframe

Deployment timeframe: they will be deployed almost immediately upon starting the survey, and will be deployed every 2-3 hours. The first sonobuoy is usually just before sunrise, and the last one is just before sunset. No sonobuoys are deployed during the night. If we detect a right whale (or other species of high interest), multiple buoys may be deployed simultaneously to localize on the calling animal.

5. What is anticipated lifespan of the buoys?

Each sonobuoy lasts 8 hours, after which it scuttles, the float pops, and it sinks to the bottom.

.....







----Original Message-----

From: (6) (6) CTR OPNAV, N2N6E Sent: Monday, March 19, 2018 10:05 AM

To: (b) (6) OPNAV, NLO

Cc: (b) (6) CIV OPNAV, N2\N6EP

Subject: RE: Marine Scientific Research Request 2018 IWC Cetacean Sighting

Survey in the North Pacific U2018-002



Would it be possible to request additional details about the sonobuoys that they plan to deploy?

- 1. Type, make and model of the sonobuoys 2. How many will be used?
- 3. Deployment locations
- 4. Deployment timeframe
- 5. What is anticipated lifespan of the buoys?

Thank you for your assistance.

Vr,
(b) (6)

Desk: (b) (6)

Cell: (b) (6)

(NIPR)
(b) (6)
(SIPR)

# 

### (b) (5) (b) (5)

To:

(b) (6) CIV USN COMPACELT PEARL HI (USA)
(b) (6) CIV USN COMPACELT (USA); (b) (6) CIV USN COMPACELT PEARL HI (USA); (b) (6) CIV USN COMP

Subject: FW: What Caused the Largest Known Mass Stranding of Stejneger"s Beaked Whales?

Date: Friday, March 19, 2021 1:38:45 PM

Attachments: (b) (6)

### **FYSA**

(b) (5)

I've pdf'd the webpage (attached), but also provided the link below and a quick summary.

BLUF: A new scientific paper suggests that seismic activity may have been involved in a mass stranding death of whales along the Aleutian Islands.

### EXCERPT:

NOAA Fisheries marine mammal experts contacted the U.S. Navy shortly after the 2018 mass stranding. It confirmed that they had not conducted training or testing activities using sonar or explosives anywhere in Alaskan waters since May 2017.

However, the U.S. Geological Survey's Alaska Volcano Observatory's monitors had detected human-caused seismic survey activity at regular intervals for hours at a time along the Aleutian Islands between July 5–20, 2018. Based on triangulation of data from multiple seismometers, the observatory determined the source of the noise likely centered about 40 miles northwest of Adak. Scientists still do not know the source of the seismic activity. Fourteen days passed between the last detection of the seismic activity and the discovery of the first whale that was part of the 2018 Adak mass stranding event. However, a link between the Stejneger's beaked whale mass stranding and the seismic activity cannot be ruled out.

https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/feature-story/what-caused-largest-known-mass-stranding-stejnegers-beaked-whales?utm\_medium=email&utm\_source=govdelivery



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From: (b) (6) CIV USN NAVFAC NW SVD WA (USA) (b) (6)

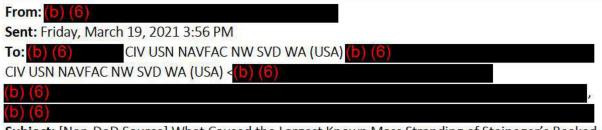
Sent: Friday, March 19, 2021 4:16 PM

To: (b) (6) CIV USN COMPACFLT PEARL HI (USA) (b) (6)

(b) (6) CIV USN NAVFAC NW SVD WA (USA) (b) (6) >; (b) (6)

CIV USN NAVFAC NW SVD WA (USA) <(b) (6) ; (b) (6)
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Subject: FW: What Caused the Largest Known Mass Stranding of Stejneger's Beaked Whales?



**Subject:** [Non-DoD Source] What Caused the Largest Known Mass Stranding of Stejneger's Beaked Whales?

### **FYI**

What Caused the Largest Known Mass Stranding of Stejneger's Beaked Whales? <a href="https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/feature-story/what-caused-largest-known-mass-stranding-stejnegers-beaked-whales?utm\_medium=email&utm\_source=govdelivery">https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/feature-story/what-caused-largest-known-mass-stranding-stejnegers-beaked-whales?utm\_medium=email&utm\_source=govdelivery</a>



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### **MEMORANDUM**

Subj: DIPLOMATIC CLEARANCE REQUEST FOR MARINE SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH

Encl: (1) Marine Scientific Research application from Japan (State File U2018-002)

- 1. The U.S. Department of State Office of Oceans and Polar Affairs (DoS OPA) has requested review and commentary on a Marine Scientific Research application from Japan regarding 2018 IWC Cetacean Sighting Survey in the North Pacific proposed research in U.S. Pacific waters from July 8, 2018 to September 20, 2018, with port calls.
- 2. The purpose of the research is that during the 61st annual meeting of the Scientific Committee of the International Whaling Commission (IWC/SC) in 2009, Japan presented a proposal and preliminary plan for a mid- to long-term research programme involving sighting surveys to provide information for cetacean stock management in the North Pacific. See additional enclosures for full details.
- 3. Your concurrence and/or comments are requested in order to forward a consolidated Navy reply to DoS OPA on or before June 25, 2018. Unless otherwise informed, DoS OPA will assume concurrence and approve the request. Please send any comments, questions, or concerns to me at (6) (6)

v/r (b) (6) , Paralegal Specialist For CAPT (b) (6) , JAGC, USN Legal/Oceans Advisor (N3/N5L) (b) (6)

DISTRIBUTION:

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CNO (N84TC)

NAVFACHQ OPF/OFP (NSCPO)

NAVOCEANO (N2/N6F5TB1)

NJAG (CODE 10)

OSD (DUSD/P)

ONI(114)

### **Unsupported Browser Detected**

Internet Explorer lacks support for the features of this website. For the best experience, please use a modern browser such as Chrome, Firefox, or Edge.



### What Caused the Largest Known Mass Stranding of Stejneger's Beaked Whales?

March 19, 2021

New scientific article is the first comprehensive paper on this elusive, deepdiving species

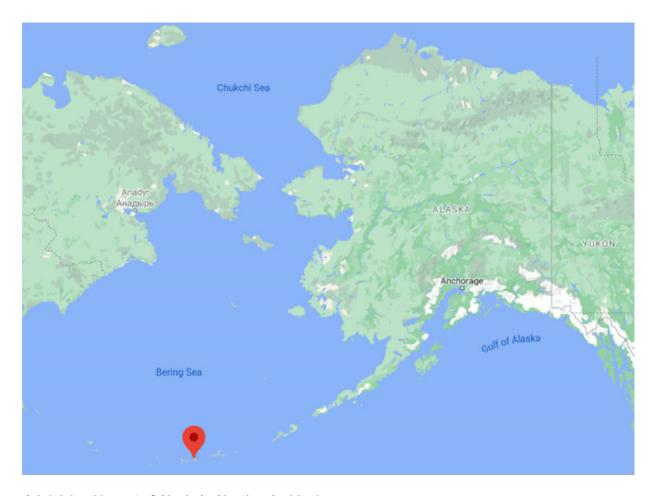


Seven Stejneger's beaked whales that stranded at Palisades Point on Adak Island, Alaska.

A new scientific paper suggests that seismic activity may have been involved in a mass stranding death of whales along the Aleutian Islands.

When whales strand along the shores of Alaska's remote and far-flung Aleutian Islands, they may never be discovered by humans. The chain of small, sparsely populated islands arc from the tip of the Alaska Peninsula west 1,100 miles to Attu Island.

Adak Island sits a little more than half-way between Unalaska—home to the nation's largest fishing port (Dutch Harbor) by volume of seafood landed—and Attu Island. It was the most westerly American base during World War II, providing a base for naval operations against Japanese garrisons. After the war, it became a U.S. military outpost through the U.S.-Soviet Cold War years until the base was closed in 1997. Most of Adak Island is uninhabited and managed as part of the Alaska Maritime National Wildlife Refuge. An estimated 100 permanent residents still live on Adak, and up to 300 people may live on the island at any one time throughout the year. There is an influx of workers related to a seafood processing plant on the island.



Adak Island is part of Alaska's Aleutian Archipelago.

### The Mass Stranding

It was along the shores of NavFac Beach on Adak Island that Tom Spitler discovered a dead whale on August 3, 2018. He took photos of the carcass and showed them to his wife Lisa Spitler, an Alaska Maritime National Wildlife Refuge biological technician stationed on Adak. She reported the stranding to NOAA Fisheries Alaska Regional Office. Biologists there determined through the photos that it was a rare occurrence: an adult female Stejneger's beaked whale.

Five days later a local man named Eddie Wine found seven additional stranded beaked whales floating among the rocks on Palisades Point on Adak. They were just 1.2 miles northeast of the beaked whale found earlier. After he and Lisa Spitler walked the length of shore taking photos, they reported their latest findings to NOAA Fisheries. NOAA marine mammal experts determined that these whales were Stejneger's beaked whales as well.

Within 24 hours, an experienced stranding response team arrived on Adak Island to investigate the mass stranding event.



Stejneger's beaked whale found on NavFac Beach, Adak Island, Alaska on August 3, 2018.

### Stejneger's Beaked Whale Strandings in Alaska

Stejneger's beaked whales are a poorly understood, deep-diving whale species found in the North Pacific Ocean. Dr. Leonhard Stejneger first described the species based on the skull of a young whale found in 1883. It was found on Russia's Bering Island, one of the westernmost islands in the Aleutian Island archipelago. The first documented specimen in Alaska was a single piece of the lower jaw that was found in the eastern Gulf of Alaska in 1927.

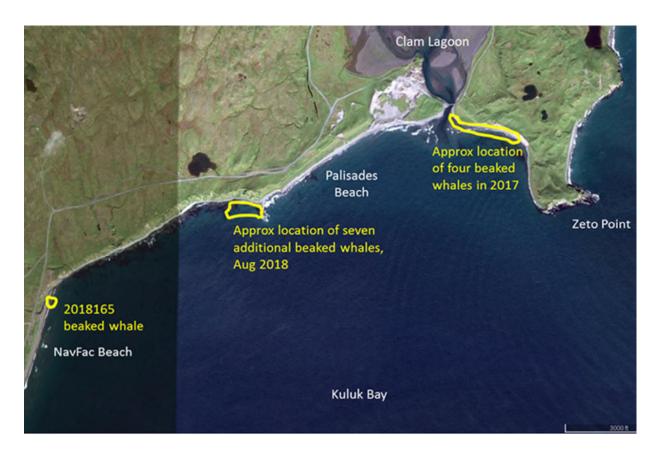
A new article, co-authored by members of NOAA Fisheries' Alaska Marine Mammal Stranding Network, was recently published in Marine Mammal Science. The paper states that there have been at least 74 Stejneger's beaked whale strandings in 42 separate events in Alaska since the discovery of the species. It is the first comprehensive and updated compilation of history, distribution, and findings of Stejneger's beaked whales in Alaska.

"This paper builds on Stejneger's beaked whale strandings data in Alaska since relevant data were last published in 1994," said the paper's lead author and NOAA Fisheries veterinarian Dr. Kate Savage. "The information provided in this paper, combined with the prior published data, represents the majority of knowledge about Stejneger's beaked whales in Alaska, and is critical for understanding the baseline condition of this elusive species in the face of a warming ocean."

Findings detailed in the paper are central to our understanding of this species. The paper:

- Documented expansion of strandings into the northern Bering Sea, including details on an adult female found near Gambell on St. Lawrence Island in 2013. Previously recorded stranding events of the species in Alaska spanned from the eastern Gulf of Alaska to the southern Bering Sea.
- Characterized a sex bias—of the 26 Stejneger's beaked whale carcasses stranded since 1995 in which sex could be determined, 22 (85 percent) were female and four (15 percent) were male.
- Confirmed that the species' diet is predominantly squid, based on an examination
  of stomach contents from 17 whales by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game.
  One stomach collected from a Stejneger's beaked whale that stranded in the
  Aleutian Islands also contained a plastic cup lid likely ingested incidentally while
  targeting prey.
- Identified five parasites not previously documented in Stejneger's beaked whales.

Of beaked whale species found in Alaska, Stejneger's beaked whales are the most commonly reported stranded. Between 1995 and 2020, 35 beaked whales were reported stranded in 16 separate events in Alaska. Seven of the events were mass strandings involving a total of 24 animals. The mass strandings were all reported from the Aleutian Islands, indicating the Aleutian archipelago may be a hotspot for mass strandings of this species. In 2017, four Stejneger's beaked whales mass stranded about 1.5 miles northeast of the 2018 mass stranding site. The 2018 event on Adak is the largest known mass stranding of Stejneger's beaked whales.



Satellite image showing the location of the eight Stejneger's beaked whales necropsied in August 2018, and the approximate location of the four Stejneger's beaked whales that stranded in July 2017 on Adak Island, Alaska.

### **Mass Stranding Examination**

"Even though I'd seen photos, it didn't truly prepare me for the impact seeing all these dead beaked whales strewn amongst the rocks,"

said



Sadie Wright and Sonia Kumar conduct a necropsy on one of the stranded whales.

Sadie Wright, a member of the stranding response team with NOAA Fisheries Alaska Regional Office. "I kept asking myself why? Why are these eight dead adult female whales side-by-side on a beach together? They appeared otherwise healthy with no major external injuries. It was intriguing."

Wright, along with Sonia Kumar from Alaska Veterinary Pathology Services and Alaska Maritime National Wildlife Refuge's Marc Webber, flew to Adak on August 11 to meet up with Lisa Spitler. The team brought supplies to collect and preserve samples from the whales. That evening they visited the carcasses on NavFac Beach and Palisades Point to assess the event and to take photographs.

The next morning the team began the necropsies—similar to an autopsy, but on an animal instead of a human. They collected various biological data such as length, body condition, and high-priority samples. Three local volunteers assisted with data collection, recording details, and photo documentation of the whales and the response activities.

Volunteer Eddie Wine took on the monumental task of removing the sand that the tide had deposited around the carcasses so that the necropsy team could access the full remains. He used a shovel and his hands to dig the sand out from around the heads and fluke, as well as the entire mid-dorsal to mid-ventral region. He also helped collect and prepare tissue samples for analysis, and helped prepare the skulls for various museums.

The necropsies lasted three full days. When possible, team members collected blubber, skin, muscle, and organ tissues as well as stomachs, reproductive tracts, feces, and internal parasites.

Scientists can learn a lot from the measurements and tissue samples collected. Blubber thickness can indicate the general health of each animal. Many organ tissues can be examined for damage, disease, infection, and possible contaminants. Feces can reveal if the whale was exposed to harmful algal blooms. Genetic material can determine how closely the stranded Stejneger's beaked whales are related to each other and other whale species. The reproductive tract provides current pregnancy status and reproductive history.



Volunteer Eddie Wine digs sand out from around a whale so the necropsy team can access the full carcass.

### The Mystery: Cause of Death

In assessing the cause of death in stranded marine mammals, scientists consider both natural and human-caused sources. Natural sources can include toxic blooms, parasites, viruses, and other diseases.

Globally, strandings and mass stranding of deep-diving whale species, such as beaked whales, have been causally linked to mid-frequency active sonar (MFAS) use by military operations. Previous research looked at the tissues in stranded beaked whales whose deaths were causally-linked to military sonar operations near the Canary Islands. They found hemorrhaged and congested tissues around the acoustic jaw fat, ears, brain, and kidney, and gas bubble-associated lesions and fat embolism in the vessels and tissues of vital organs. The result of this tissue damage is something akin to decompression sickness, caused by nitrogen supersaturation beyond levels that tissues can withstand.

Unfortunately, the carcasses of the eight 2018 Adak whales were too decomposed to determine the cause of death, including any possible evidence of sonar-associated

strandings. Additionally, at the time of the mass stranding in 2018, there was no passive acoustic monitoring in the region that could have established the presence of MFAS.

NOAA Fisheries marine mammal experts contacted the U.S. Navy shortly after the 2018 mass stranding. It confirmed that they had not conducted training or testing activities using sonar or explosives anywhere in Alaskan waters since May 2017.

However, the U.S. Geological Survey's Alaska Volcano Observatory's monitors had detected human-caused seismic survey activity at regular intervals for hours at a time along the Aleutian Islands between July 5–20, 2018. Based on triangulation of data from multiple seismometers, the observatory determined the source of the noise likely centered about 40 miles northwest of Adak. Scientists still do not know the source of the seismic activity. Fourteen days passed between the last detection of the seismic activity and the discovery of the first whale that was part of the 2018 Adak mass stranding event. However, a link between the Stejneger's beaked whale mass stranding and the seismic activity cannot be ruled out.

The data collected during stranding responses like this contributes to the best available science about a species. NOAA Fisheries will consider this research along with all other relevant research when making management decisions.

If you see injured, entangled or dead marine mammals, immediately call the NOAA Fisheries' Alaska Statewide 24-hour Stranding Hotline at (877) 925-7773.

Fernandez et al 2005: https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/10.1354/vp.42-4-446

Last updated by Alaska Regional Office on March 19, 2021 From: (b) (6) CIV USN DCNO N4 (USA)

To: (b) (6) CAPT USN DCNO N4 (USA); (b) (6) CDR USN DCNO N4 (USA) (b) (6) CAPT

USN COMPACELT N46 (USA); (b) (6)

CIV USN COMPACELT (USA); (b) (6)

CIV USN COMPACELT PEARL HI (USA); (b) (6)

CIV USN USFFC (USA); (b) (6)

CIV USN USFFC (USA); (b) (6)

CIV USN USFFC (USA); (b) (6)

(USA)

Cc: (b) (6) CIV USN DCNO N4 (USA)

Subject: RE: [Non-DoD Source] Fwd: For NAVY Review: Webstory on Alaska beaked whales

Date: Wednesday, February 17, 2021 5:59:15 AM
Attachments: AKR Beaked Whales Webstory .docx

Importance: High

All,

I received the following email/attachment from NMFS public affairs staff. We provided comments to NOAA on a peer review publication they were developing on beaked whale strandings in Adak Alaska a couple of years ago. It seemed like that publication was dead or significantly delayed. This is the first outreach on this issue in over a year. It looks like they have moved forward with the publication:

Savage et al. 2021. Stejneger's beaked whale strandings in Alaska 1995-2020. Marine Mammal Science.

And the attached word document is a webstory that NOAA intends to roll out to coincide with the study's publication. They are allowing us a review of the webstory for input. I do not have a timeline for comments, but please provide input NLT COB Friday.

N4J – Do I need to reach out to CHINFO to clear this, or for situational awareness? What about DASNE?

v/r



Marine Resources Specialist Chief of Naval Operations Energy and Environmental Readiness Division, N454 2000 Navy Pentagon, Rm 2D253 Washington DC 20350-2000

P: (b) (6)

Cell: (b) (6) \*\* Primary line during telework due to COVID restrictions

From: (b) (6) D CIV USN NSWC CRD BDA MD (US) <(b) (6) On Behalf Of

NSWCCD, CPAO

Sent: Wednesday, February 17, 2021 9:15 AM

To: (b) (6) M CIV USN DCNO N4 (USA) < (b) (6) @navy.mil>

Cc: NSWCCD, CPAO < CRDIVCPAO.fct@navy.mil>

**Subject:** FW: [Non-DoD Source] Fwd: For NAVY Review: Webstory on Alaska beaked whales

Good Morning (b) (6),

I'm forwarding this email sent to our public affairs mailbox from Julie Fair (NOAA Fisheries), re: review/clearance of her story.

Thanks and Vr/(b) (6)

(b) (6) , Public Affairs mailbox/webmail POC Public Affairs Office NSWC Carderock Division CRDIVCPAO.fct@navy.mil







From: CIV USN DCNO N4 (USA)

To: NSWCCD, CPAO

Cc: Jolie Harrison; kate.savaqe@noaa.gov; julie.fair@noaa.gov

Subject: RE: [Non-DoD Source] Fwd: For NAVY Review: Webstory on Alaska beaked whales

Date:Thursday, February 18, 2021 9:58:50 AMAttachments:AKR Beaked Whales Webstory (Navy).docx<br/>0083437500 Proprosed Cruise Track YM2 2018.png

MEMORANDUM Marine Scientific Research application from Japan (State File U2018-002).docx

amplifying info MSR U2018-002.docx

All,

Attached are the Navy's comments for the Alaska beaked whale strandings webstory.



Prior to 2017, the US did not require foreign nations to submit an MSR request for most research activities. However, the State Department modified request procedures and since then there has been an abundances of requests, in particular in the Pacific that have required review by US agencies for compatibility. State Department retains all records, but the Navy looked back at ones from 2018 and noticed two MSR applications around the time of the stranding at Adak. Attached are some of the preliminary document for one of the MSR requests at that time. You'd need to work with the State Department to get the final survey tracks, sound source deployments, etc. to conduct further investigation.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

v/r

### (b) (6)

Marine Resources Specialist Chief of Naval Operations Energy and Environmental Readiness Division, N454 2000 Navy Pentagon, Rm 2D253 Washington DC 20350-2000

P: (b) (6)

Cell (b) (6) \*\* Primary line during telework due to COVID restrictions

Sent: Wednesday, February 17, 2021 12:30 PM

**To:** (b) (6) CIV USN DCNO N4 (USA) **(b)** (6) @navy.mil>

Subject: RE: [Non-DoD Source] Fwd: For NAVY Review: Webstory on Alaska beaked whales

### **(b) (6)**

Glad you have it. Just fyi, this came into our mailbox after COB yesterday and looks like they would like to post end of this week.

Take care and Best regards,

### (b) (6)

From: (b) (6) CIV USN DCNO N4 (USA) (b) (6) @navy.mil>

**Sent:** Wednesday, February 17, 2021 10:52 AM **To:** NSWCCD, CPAO <CRDIVCPAO.fct@navy.mil>

Subject: RE: [Non-DoD Source] Fwd: For NAVY Review: Webstory on Alaska beaked whales



I received this email. I will distribute it to appropriate Navy staff to provide review/clearance. What is the timeline for this posting?

v/r

### (b) (6)

Marine Resources Specialist

Chief of Naval Operations

Energy and Environmental Readiness Division, N454

2000 Navy Pentagon, Rm 2D253

Washington DC 20350-2000

P: (b) (6) F: (b) (6)

Cell: (b) (6) \*\* Primary line during telework due to COVID restrictions

From: (b) (6) D CIV USN NSWC CRD BDA MD (US) (b) (6) On Behalf Of

NSWCCD, CPAO

Sent: Wednesday, February 17, 2021 9:15 AM

To: (b) (6) CIV USN DCNO N4 (USA) < (b) (6) @navy.mil>

Cc: NSWCCD, CPAO <CRDIVCPAO.fct@navy.mil>

Subject: FW: [Non-DoD Source] Fwd: For NAVY Review: Webstory on Alaska beaked whales

Good Morning (b) (6),

I'm forwarding this email sent to our public affairs mailbox from Julie Fair (NOAA Fisheries), re: review/clearance of her story.

Thanks and Vr/(b) (6)

(b) (6) , Public Affairs mailbox/webmail POC Public Affairs Office
NSWC Carderock Division
CRDIVCPAO.fct@navy.mil





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From:
                                      CIV USN DCNO N4 (USA)
To:
                                         CIV USN COMPACFLT PEARL HI (USA);
                    CAPT USN DCNO N4 (USA)
                    PEARL HI (USA):
                                                                                              CAPT USN USFFC (USA)
Cc:
                                                                            CIV USN COMPACELT PEARL HI (USA);
                                     N COMPACELT PEARL HI (U
                                                                                 CDR USN COMPACFLT (USA)
Subject:
                    RE: Fwd: For NAVY Review: Webstory on Alaska beaked whales
                    Thursday, February 18, 2021 10:06:26 AM
Date:
                    RE Non-DoD Source Fwd For NAVY Review Webstory on Alaska beaked whales (3.78 MB).msq
Attachments:
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Attached is what I submitted as the final product to NOAA. I did not include a direction them to check on MMPA permits, because I did that myself and I confirmed there were no IHA/LOAs issued for seismic or other activities in this region in the 2018 time period of the mass stranding. The only ones in and around Alaska were in the Beaufort Sea at the BP Northstar facility and in Cook Inlet.

v/r

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(b) (6)
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Marine Resources Specialist Chief of Naval Operations Energy and Environmental Readiness Division, N454 2000 Navy Pentagon, Rm 2D253 Washington DC 20350-2000

P: (b) (6)

Cell: (b) (6) \*\* Primary line during telework due to COVID restrictions

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----Original Message-
                     CIV USN DCNO N4 (USA)
Sent: Thursday, February 18, 2021 1:56 PM
To:
                      CIV USN COMPACFLT PEARL HI (USA)
                                        CIV USN USFFC (USA)
                                  CAPT USN COMPACFLT N46 (USA)
                                    CIV USN COMPACFLT (USA)
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                  CIV USN DCNO N4 (USA)
            CIV USN COMPACFLT PEARL HI (USA)
              CIV USN COMPACFLT PEARL HI (USA)
              CDR USN COMPACFLT (USA) (6)
Subject: RE: Fwd: For NAVY Review: Webstory on Alaska beaked whales
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### (b) (6)et al.,

I appreciate CPF's position, but since these press materials/peer review papers are being provided for Navy's review as a courtesy, we typically only provide edits when information is factually inaccurate. There is nothing

factually inaccurate about the two sentences (below) that are proposed to be included about the history of Adak re: military presence.

"It was the most westerly American base during World War II, providing a base for naval operations against Japanese garrisons. After the war, it became a U.S. military outpost through the U.S.-Soviet Cold War years until the base was closed in 1997."



v/r

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(b) (6)
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Marine Resources Specialist

Chief of Naval Operations

Energy and Environmental Readiness Division, N454

2000 Navy Pentagon, Rm 2D253

Washington DC 20350-2000

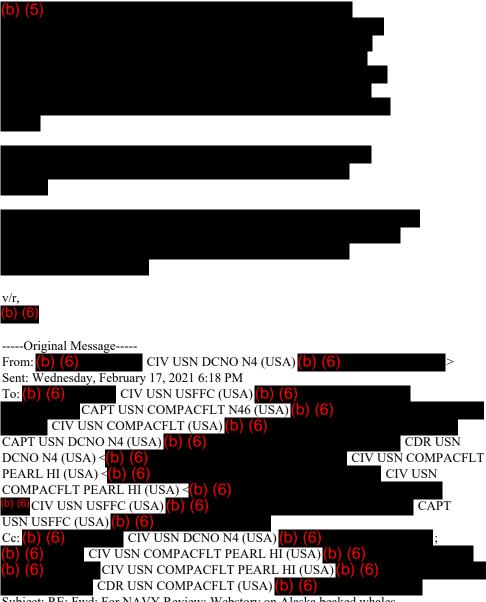
P: (b) (6

\*\* Primary line during telework due to COVID restrictions

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----Original Message-----
                        CIV USN COMPACFLT PEARL HI (USA)
From: (b) (6)
Sent: Wednesday, February 17, 2021 9:45 PM
                  CIV USN DCNO N4 (USA) < 6
                                                       @navy mil>;
             CIV USN USFFC (USA) (6)
     CAPT USN COMPACFLT N46 (USA) (b) (6
    CIV USN COMPACFLT (USA) (b) (6)
CAPT USN DCNO N4 (USA) (6)
                                                           CDR USN
DCNO N4 (USA) (b)
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PEARL HI (USA) (6)
                                                      CIV USN USFFC
                                          CAPT USN USFFC (USA)
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            CIV USN COMPACFLT PEARL HI (USA) (b)
              CIV USN COMPACFLT PEARL HI (USA)
              CDR USN COMPACFLT (USA) < (b) (6)
Subject: RE: Fwd: For NAVY Review: Webstory on Alaska beaked whales
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All,

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(b) (5)
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Subject: RE: Fwd: For NAVY Review: Webstory on Alaska beaked whales

Importance: High

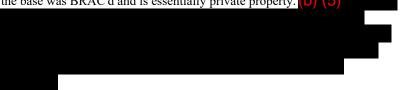
All,

I reviewed all edits received to date, and would like to submit the attached as the Navy's consolidated response.

```
The period of review for the strandings was 1995-present, which mostly aligns with the period post-BRAC of the Navy base at Adak which is why the island is now so sparsely populated. (b) (5)

I spent some time looking up the history of the town/island and NMFS is correct that military presence is essentially the only reason the town existed at all. Prior to the early 19th century the island was used infrequently by Aleut tribes for hunting. Adak didn't really exist prior to the Army/Navy creating it as an outpost in 1942 during WWII to fend off
```

Japanese advance in the Aleutian Islands. The first time it was included in the census was in 1970 as the Adak Naval Station, it wasn't recognized as its own town until 2000. Peak habitation was 5-10K people when the base was operating and is now down to a few hundred people. The entire island, minus the National Wildlife refuge, was transferred to the Aleut Corporation after the base was BRAC'd and is essentially private property.



Summary of other edits:



I will provide in the email transmittal the comments and documentation provided by CAPT [6] for NMFS to check on MSR applications and MMPA permits as potential additional sources of anthropogenic noise that they may have overlooked.

v/r

### (b) (b)

Marine Resources Specialist Chief of Naval Operations Energy and Environmental Readiness Division, N454 2000 Navy Pentagon, Rm 2D253 Washington DC 20350-2000

P. (6) (6)

F: (b) (6)

\*\* Primary line during telework due to COVID restrictions

```
----Original Message-----
From: (b) (6)
                   CIV USN USFFC (USA) (b) (6)
Sent: Wednesday, February 17, 2021 5:05 PM
              CAPT USN COMPACFLT N46 (USA) (b) (6)
To: (b) (6)
                CIV USN DCNO N4 (USA) (b) (6
                                                     @navy mil>;
                CIV USN COMPACFLT (USA) (b) (6)
       CAPT USN DCNO N4 (USA) < (b) (6)
CDR USN DCNO N4 (USA) (b) (6)
                                                             CIV USN
COMPACFLT PEARL HI (USA) < (b) (6)
CIV USN COMPACFLT PEARL HI (USA) (b)
(b) (6) CIV USN USFFC (USA)
CAPT USN USFFC (USA) (b) (6)
                  CIV USN DCNO N4 (USA) (b) (6)
```

```
G CIV USN COMPACFLT PEARL HI (USA)
               CIV USN COMPACFLT PEARL HI (USA) (b
              CDR USN COMPACFLT (USA) (6)
Subject: RE: Fwd: For NAVY Review: Webstory on Alaska beaked whales
 (5), reviewed and have no additional comments
            , Kodiak (west of GOA) to Adak is 1040 airline miles.
These are only my comments. on weigh in with anything additional.
----Original Message----
From: (b) (6)
                 CAPT USN COMPACFLT N46 (USA) (6)
Sent: Wednesday, February 17, 2021 4:50 PM
To (b) (6)
                   CIV USN DCNO N4 (USA)
                 CIV USN COMPACFLT (USA) (b)
       CAPT USN DCNO N4 (USA) < (b) (6)
CDR USN DCNO N4 (USA) (b) (6)
                                                               CIV USN
COMPACFLT PEARL HI (USA) (b) (6)
CIV USN COMPACFLT PEARL HI (USA) (b) (6)
      CIV USN USFFC (USA) (6)
    CIV USN USFFC (USA) (b) (6
USN USFFC (USA) < (b) (6)
Cc: (b) (6)
                  CIV USN DCNO N4 (USA) (6)
           G CIV USN COMPACFLT PEARL HI (USA) (6)
               CIV USN COMPACFLT PEARL HI (USA)
                   USN COMPACFLT (USA) (6)
Subject: RE: Fwd: For NAVY Review: Webstory on Alaska beaked whales
Okay (b) (5)
V/r,
----Original Message-----
                     CIV USN DCNO N4 (USA) (b) (6)
From: (b) (6)
Sent: Wednesday, February 17, 2021 11:46 AM
               CAPT USN COMPACFLT N46 (USA) (b) (6)
               ) CIV USN COMPACFLT (USA) (b) (6)
       CAPT USN DCNO N4 (USA) (b) (6)
CDR USN DCNO N4 (USA) (b) (6)
                                                              CIV USN
COMPACFLT PEARL HI (USA) (b) (6)
CIV USN COMPACFLT PEARL HI (USA) < (b) (6)
 b) (6) CIV USN USFFC (USA) (b) (6)
    CIV USN USFFC (USA)
                                                                CAPT
USN USFFC (USA) (b) (6)
Cc: (b) (6)
                  CIV USN DCNO N4 (USA) (b) (6)
             CIV USN COMPACFLT PEARL HI (USA)
               CIV USN COMPACFLT PEARL HI (USA)
              CDR USN COMPACFLT (USA) < (b) (6)
Subject: RE: Fwd: For NAVY Review: Webstory on Alaska beaked whales
```



We provided them comments that they should go an inquire about MSR permits in the area. We gave them that input back in late 2019/early 2020, but we haven't had much engagement with NMFS in the last year to know if they investigated that or not. (b) (5)

Their look at the earthquakes and seismic detections via the USGS Alaska Volcano Observatory only occurred at the Navy's prodding, when we provided them information showing detections relevant to a few of the strandings. I think (5) (6) actually found some of that information.

In the email providing our comments on the webstory, I will relay that if they want to do further inquiry we suggest they look into the MSR issue and MMPA permits again, and I will attach the documents you provided. (b) (5)

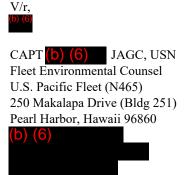
### (b) (6)

```
----Original Message-----
From: (b) (6)
                CAPT USN COMPACFLT N46 (USA)
Sent: Wednesday, February 17, 2021 4:36 PM
To: (b) (6)
                   CIV USN COMPACFLT (USA)
               CIV USN DCNO N4 (USA) <
             CAPT USN DCNO N4 (USA) <
       CDR USN DCNO N4 (USA) < (b) (6
CIV USN COMPACFLT PEARL HI (USA) <
       CIV USN COMPACFLT PEARL HI (USA) < 6
             CIV USN USFFC (USA) < (b) (6)
         CIV USN USFFC (USA) (b) (6
CAPT USN USFFC (USA) (b) (6)
Cc: (b) (6
                  CIV USN DCNO N4 (USA)
            CIV USN COMPACFLT PEARL HI (USA) (b) (6
              CIV USN COMPACFLT PEARL HI (USA) (6)
              CDR USN COMPACFLT (USA) < (b) (6)
Subject: RE: Fwd: For NAVY Review: Webstory on Alaska beaked whales
```

### **(b) (6)**,

Some comments and proposed edits.

```
We have all the documents related to ones that CPF was asked to review from OPNAV N3/5 and I glanced at some from 2018 today and notice at least two in that area around that time. And I pulled out one in attached files (more files related but these pieces caught my eye) which show sonobuoy use and track northwest of Adak requested in timeframe by a Japan vessel. (b) (5)
```



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Some comments from me. Also cc:ing CPF personnel.

```
(b) (6)
Environmental Readiness Division (N465), Southwest Detachment US Pacific Fleet
Work cell: (b) (6)
Email: (b) (6)
```

```
CIV USN DCNO N4 (USA) < (b) (6)
                                                               @navy mil>
From: (b) (6)
Sent: Wednesday, February 17, 2021 7:59 AM
                  CAPT USN DCNO N4 (USA) (b) (6
        CDR USN DCNO N4 (USA) (b)
      \overline{\text{USN}} COMPACFLT N46 (USA) \overline{<\!(b)} (6)
                                                                          ) CIV
USN COMPACFLT (USA) (b) (6)
                                                             CIV USN
COMPACFLT PEARL HI (USA) (b
CIV USN COMPACFLT PEARL HI (USA) <
       CIV USN USFFC (USA)
    CIV USN USFFC (USA)
                                                                    CAPT
USN USFFC (USA) (b) (6)
                    CIV USN DCNO N4 (USA) < (b) (6)
Subject: RE: [Non-DoD Source] Fwd: For NAVY Review: Webstory on Alaska
beaked whales
Importance: High
```

All,

I received the following email/attachment from NMFS public affairs staff. We provided comments to NOAA on a peer review publication they were developing on beaked whale strandings in Adak Alaska a couple of years ago. It seemed like that publication was dead or significantly delayed. This is the first outreach on this issue in over a year. It looks like they have moved forward with the publication:

Savage et al. 2021. Stejneger's beaked whale strandings in Alaska 1995-2020. Marine Mammal Science.

And the attached word document is a webstory that NOAA intends to roll out to coincide with the study's publication. They are allowing us a review of the webstory for input. I do not have a timeline for comments, but please provide input NLT COB Friday.

N4J – Do I need to reach out to CHINFO to clear this, or for situational awareness? What about DASNE?

v/r

beaked whales

```
(b) (6)
Marine Resources Specialist
Chief of Naval Operations
Energy and Environmental Readiness Division, N454
2000 Navy Pentagon, Rm 2D253
Washington DC 20350-2000
P: (b) (6)
F: (b) (6)
```

```
From: (b) (6) D CIV USN NSWC CRD BDA MD (US) < (b) (6) > On Behalf Of NSWCCD, CPAO

Sent: Wednesday, February 17, 2021 9:15 AM

To: (b) (6) CIV USN DCNO N4 (USA) < (b) (6) @navy mil>
Cc: NSWCCD, CPAO < CRDIVCPAO fct@navy.mil>
Subject: FW: [Non-DoD Source] Fwd: For NAVY Review: Webstory on Alaska
```

\*\* Primary line during telework due to COVID restrictions

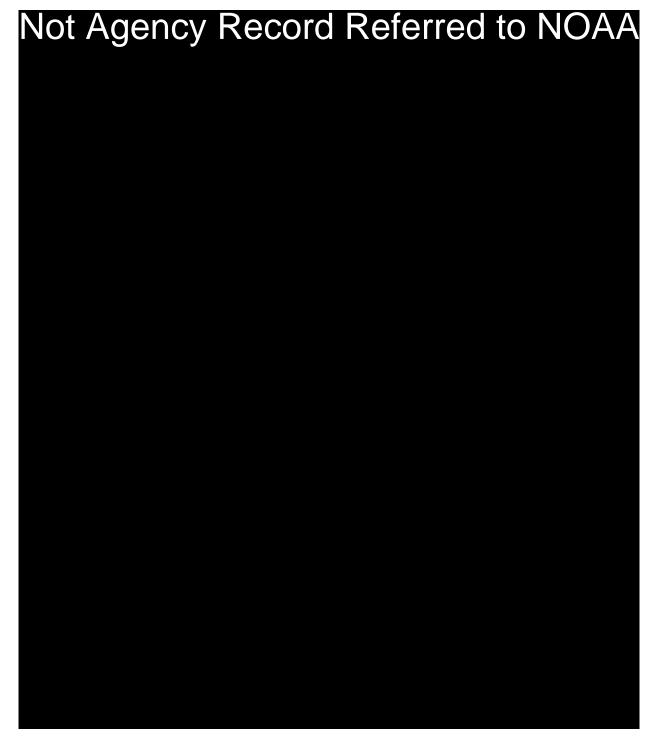
Good Morning (b) (6),

I'm forwarding this email sent to our public affairs mailbox from Julie Fair (NOAA Fisheries), re: review/clearance of her story.

Thanks and Vr/(b) (6)

(b) (6) , Public Affairs mailbox/webmail POC Public Affairs Office NSWC Carderock Division

mailto:CRDIVCPAO fct@navy mil





From:

(b) (6)

DCNO N4 (USA)

To:

(b) (6)

CIV USN COMPACFLT PEARL HI (USA); (b) (6)

CAPT USN COMPACFLT N46 (USA); (b) (6)

CAPT USN DCNO N4 (USA); (b) (6)

CAPT USN DCNO N4 (USA); (b) (6)

CAPT USN DCNO N4 (USA); (b) (6)

CIV USN USFFC (USA); (b) (6)

CIV USN USFFC (USA); (b) (6)

CIV USN COMPACFLT PEARL HI (USA); (b) (6)

CIV USN COMPACFLT (USA)

Subject:

RE: Fwd: For NAVY Review: Webstory on Alaska beaked whales

Friday, February 19, 2021 5:39:08 AM

## (b) (6) - No problem.

All - I did receive word back from NOAA's public affairs officer - Julie Fair - that they are willing to accept all the edits we provided. I've asked them to let us know when the webstory goes live, so I will pass that along when I hear.

v/r

### (b) (6)

Marine Resources Specialist Chief of Naval Operations Energy and Environmental Readiness Division, N454 2000 Navy Pentagon, Rm 2D253 Washington DC 20350-2000

P: (b) (6)

Cell: (b) (6) \*\* Primary line during telework due to COVID restrictions

```
----Original Message---
From:
                         CIV USN COMPACFLT PEARL HI (USA)
Sent: Thursday, February 18, 2021 6:23 PM
To: Kitchen, Danielle M CIV USN DCNO N4 (USA) <danielle kitchen@navy mil>;
              CIV USN USFFC (USA) (6)
      CAPT USN COMPACFLT N46 (USA) (b) (6)
     CIV USN COMPACFLT (USA) (b) (6)
CAPT USN DCNO N4 (USA) < (b) (6
                                                            CDR USN
                                                    CIV USN COMPACFLT
DCNO N4 (USA)
                                                       CIV USN USFFC
PEARL HI (USA)
(USA) (b) (6)
                                           CAPT USN USFFC (USA)
                  CIV USN DCNO N4 (USA) <
            CIV USN COMPACELT PEARL HI (USA)
               CIV USN COMPACFLT PEARL HI (USA)
              CDR USN COMPACFLT (USA) < (b) (6)
Subject: RE: Fwd: For NAVY Review: Webstory on Alaska beaked whales
```

## (b) (6)

I see it all now and am good with what you provided. (b) (5)

with permitted and unpermitted, as well as the changes requested and not included, and some responses/answers were in the email and some in the body of the text, but I retraced all the steps (b) (5)

[b) (5)

pulling this all together and working through the conversation with me as CPF has wanted NMFS to review other sources and we didn't want to miss this opportunity. Sorry I was a bit slow on the uptake!

v/r, (b) (6)

```
----Original Message----
From: (b) (6) (b) (6) M CIV USN DCNO N4 (USA) <(b) (6) (6) navy mil>
Sent: Thursday, February 18, 2021 1:26 PM
                      CIV USN COMPACFLT PEARL HI (USA)
To:
                                       CIV USN USFFC (USA)
                                  CAPT USN COMPACFLT N46 (USA)
                                    CIV USN COMPACFLT (USA)
                                  CAPT USN DCNO N4 (USA)
                                   CDR USN DCNO N4 (USA)
                                    CIV USN COMPACFLT PEARL HI (USA)
                                       CIV USN USFFC (USA)
                                    CAPT USN USFFC (USA)
                  CIV USN DCNO N4 (USA)
            CIV USN COMPACFLT PEARL HI (USA) (b
              CIV USN COMPACFLT PEARL HI (USA)
             CDR USN COMPACFLT (USA) <
Subject: RE: Fwd: For NAVY Review: Webstory on Alaska beaked whales
```

## (b) (6)

One thing to keep in mind is that scientific permits are separate from incidental take permits, and they don't post the scientific permits.

Based on my review, there was no incidental take permits issued for this region for any action in the time frame of the stranding. There could have been a scientific permits, and will know that. It's also possible that the MSR activity may be unpermitted, which in that case the only way to track it would be through the State Department's approval of the survey, which we have directed them to look into.

I did provide all the information about the MSR surveys that <sup>[6]</sup> provided to me to NOAA, just not in the main body of the comments on the webstory. They were attachments and addressed in my email.

I'm unclear on what else you want me to provide.

v/r

## (b) (6) (b) (6)

Marine Resources Specialist Chief of Naval Operations Energy and Environmental Readiness Division, N454 2000 Navy Pentagon, Rm 2D253

```
Washington DC 20350-2000
                ** Primary line during telework due to COVID restrictions
----Original Message-----
From: (b) (6)
                         CIV USN COMPACFLT PEARL HI (USA)
(b) (6)
Sent: Thursday, February 18, 2021 4:19 PM
To: (b) (6) (b) (6) M CIV USN DCNO N4 (USA) < (b) (6) (b) (6) navy mil>;
              CIV USN USFFC (USA) (b) (6
      CAPT USN COMPACFLT N46 (USA) (b) (6)
     CIV USN COMPACFLT (USA) (b) (6)
CAPT USN DCNO N4 (USA) (b) (6)
                                                             CDR USN
DCNO N4 (USA) (b) (6)
                                                     CIV USN COMPACFLT
PEARL HI (USA)
                                                        CIV USN USFFC
(USA) (b) (6)
                                            CAPT USN USFFC (USA)
(b) (6)
Cc: (b) (6)
                   CIV USN DCNO N4 (USA) (b) (6)
            CIV USN COMPACFLT PEARL HI (USA) < (b) (6
               CIV USN COMPACFLT PEARL HI (USA) <
              CDR USN COMPACFLT (USA) (6)
Subject: RE: Fwd: For NAVY Review: Webstory on Alaska beaked whales
That is my point... (b) (5)
v/r,
----Original Message----
From: (b) (6) (b) (6) M CIV USN DCNO N4 (USA) < (b) (6) (6) navy mil>
Sent: Thursday, February 18, 2021 1:13 PM
                       CIV USN COMPACFLT PEARL HI (USA)
                                         CIV USN USFFC (USA)
                                    CAPT USN COMPACFLT N46 (USA)
                                     CIV USN COMPACFLT (USA)
                                    CAPT USN DCNO N4 (USA)
                                    CDR USN DCNO N4 (USA)
                                      CIV USN COMPACFLT PEARL HI (USA)
                                         CIV USN USFFC (USA)
                                      CAPT USN USFFC (USA)
                  CIV USN DCNO N4 (USA) (b) (6)
            CIV USN COMPACFLT PEARL HI (USA) (b) (6
               CIV USN COMPACFLT PEARL HI (USA)
              CDR USN COMPACFLT (USA) < (b) (6)
Subject: RE: Fwd: For NAVY Review: Webstory on Alaska beaked whales
```

```
I know NOAA receives these from the State Department, but NMFS has typically
not required MSR activities to get MMPA permits. (b) (5)
                       That said, (b) (6)
                                             is aware of the
webstory and article and is reviewing it from her shop, so if she knew of an
MMPA permit that she issued in this area I am sure she would say something.
v/r
(b) (6) (b) (6)
Marine Resources Specialist
Chief of Naval Operations
Energy and Environmental Readiness Division, N454
2000 Navy Pentagon, Rm 2D253
Washington DC 20350-2000
                  ** Primary line during telework due to COVID restrictions
----Original Message----
From: (b) (6)
                            CIV USN COMPACFLT PEARL HI (USA)
Sent: Thursday, February 18, 2021 4:03 PM
To: (b) (6) (b) (6) M CIV USN DCNO N4 (USA) < (b) (6) (b) (6) navy mil>;
               CIV USN USFFC (USA) (b) (6
       CAPT USN COMPACFLT N46 (USA) (b) (6)
      CIV USN COMPACFLT (USA) < (b) (6)
CAPT USN DCNO N4 (USA) (6)
                                                                    CDR USN
DCNO N4 (USA) (b) (6
                                                           CIV USN COMPACFLT
                                                               CIV USN USFFC
PEARL HI (USA)
                                                 CAPT USN USFFC (USA)
(USA) (b) (6)
                     CIV USN DCNO N4 (USA) (b) (6)
Cc:
              CIV USN COMPACFLT PEARL HI (USA)
                CIV USN COMPACFLT PEARL HI (USA)
                CDR USN COMPACFLT (USA) < (b) (6)
Subject: RE: Fwd: For NAVY Review: Webstory on Alaska beaked whales
(b) (6)
This has come up in discussion before, but if Japan (or any other foreign
nation) was conducting a scientific survey in the Bering Sea, they wouldn't
apply for a MMPA permit...rather the other nation's scientific surveys would
have been routed for review through other government offices to include
Navy's, but none of the foreign scientific survey notices that CPF has been
reviewing over the last 10 years have applied for a MMPA permit. (b) (5)
v/r.
----Original Message-----
```

From: (b) (6) (b) (6) M CIV USN DCNO N4 (USA) < (b) (6)

```
Sent: Thursday, February 18, 2021 12:06 PM

To: (b) (6)

CIV USN COMPACELT PEARL HI (USA)

(b) (6)

CAPT USN COMPACELT N46 (USA)

(c) (d) (e)

CAPT USN COMPACELT (USA)

(c) (e) (e)

CAPT USN DCNO N4 (USA)

(c) (d) (e)

CIV USN COMPACELT PEARL HI (USA)

(d) (e)

CIV USN COMPACELT PEARL HI (USA)

(e) (e)

CIV USN USFFC (USA)

(f) (e)

CIV USN USFFC (USA)

(g) (e)

CIV USN COMPACELT PEARL HI (USA)

(g) (e)

CIV USN COMPACELT (USA)

(g) (e)

CIV USN COMPACELT PEARL HI (USA)

(g) (e)

CIV USN COMPACELT PEARL HI (USA)

(g) (e)

CIV USN COMPACELT (USA)

(g) (e)

CIV USN COMPACELT
```

Attached is what I submitted as the final product to NOAA. I did not include a direction them to check on MMPA permits, because I did that myself and I confirmed there were no IHA/LOAs issued for seismic or other activities in this region in the 2018 time period of the mass stranding. The only ones in and around Alaska were in the Beaufort Sea at the BP Northstar facility and in Cook Inlet.

v/r

```
Marine Resources Specialist
Chief of Naval Operations
Energy and Environmental Readiness Division, N454
2000 Navy Pentagon, Rm 2D253
Washington DC 20350-2000
                ** Primary line during telework due to COVID restrictions
----Original Message-----
From: (b) (6) (b) (6) M CIV USN DCNO N4 (USA)
Sent: Thursday, February 18, 2021 1:56 PM
                       CIV USN COMPACFLT PEARL HI (USA)
To: (b) (6
                                          CIV USN USFFC (USA)
                                    CAPT USN COMPACELT N46 (USA)
                                      CIV USN COMPACFLT (USA)
                                    CAPT USN DCNO N4 (USA)
                                     CDR USN DCNO N4 (USA)
                                       CIV USN COMPACFLT PEARL HI (USA)
                                          CIV USN USFFC (USA)
                                      CAPT USN USFFC (USA)
                   CIV USN DCNO N4 (USA) <
             CIV USN COMPACFLT PEARL HI (USA) <
               CIV USN COMPACFLT PEARL HI (USA)
               CDR USN COMPACFLT (USA) < (b) (6)
Subject: RE: Fwd: For NAVY Review: Webstory on Alaska beaked whales
```

```
(b) (6) et al.,
```

I appreciate CPF's position, but since these press materials/peer review papers are being provided for Navy's review as a courtesy, we typically only provide edits when information is factually inaccurate. There is nothing factually inaccurate about the two sentences (below) that are proposed to be included about the history of Adak re: military presence.

"It was the most westerly American base during World War II, providing a base for naval operations against Japanese garrisons. After the war, it became a U.S. military outpost through the U.S.-Soviet Cold War years until the base was closed in 1997."



v/r

## (b) (6) (b) (6)

Marine Resources Specialist Chief of Naval Operations Energy and Environmental Readiness Division, N454 2000 Navy Pentagon, Rm 2D253 Washington DC 20350-2000

P: (b) (6) F: (b) (6)

\*\* Primary line during telework due to COVID restrictions

```
----Original Message----
From: (b) (6)
                        CIV USN COMPACFLT PEARL HI (USA)
Sent: Wednesday, February 17, 2021 9:45 PM
To: (b) (6) (b) (6) M CIV USN DCNO N4 (USA) (b) (6)
              CIV USN USFFC (USA) (6)
     CAPT USN COMPACFLT N46 (USA) (6)
     CIV USN COMPACFLT (USA) (b) (6)
CAPT USN DCNO N4 (USA) (6)
                                                            CDR USN
                                                     CIV USN COMPACFLT
DCNO N4 (USA) (b) (6
PEARL HI (USA) < (b) (6
                                                        CIV USN USFFC
(USA) (b) (6)
                                            CAPT USN USFFC (USA)
(b) (b
                  CIV USN DCNO N4 (USA) (b) (6)
             CIV USN COMPACFLT PEARL HI (USA) (b)
               CIV USN COMPACFLT PEARL HI (USA) (b
              CDR USN COMPACFLT (USA) < (b) (6)
Subject: RE: Fwd: For NAVY Review: Webstory on Alaska beaked whales
```

```
v/r,
----Original Message-----
From: (b) (6) (6) M CIV USN DCNO N4 (USA) < (b) (6) (6) navy mil>
Sent: Wednesday, February 17, 2021 6:18 PM
                   CIV USN USFFC (USA) (b) (6)
To: (b) (6)
             CAPT USN COMPACFLT N46 (USA) (b) (6)
        CIV USN COMPACFLT (USA) (b) (6)
CAPT USN DCNO N4 (USA) (b) (6)
                                                                   CDR USN
DCNO N4 (USA) (b) (6
                                                          CIV USN COMPACFLT
PEARL HI (USA) (b) (6)
COMPACELT PEARL HI (USA) (b) (6)
                                                                CIV USN
    CIV USN USFFC (USA) (b) (6)
USN USFFC (USA) < (b) (6)
              CIV USN DCNO N4 (USA) < (b) (6)
CIV USN COMPACFLT PEARL HI (USA) (b)
Cc: (b) (6)
                CIV USN COMPACFLT PEARL HI (USA) (b
                CDR USN COMPACFLT (USA) (6)
Subject: RE: Fwd: For NAVY Review: Webstory on Alaska beaked whales
Importance: High
All,
I reviewed all edits received to date, and would like to submit the attached
```

I reviewed all edits received to date, and would like to submit the attached as the Navy's consolidated response.

```
he period of review for the strandings was 1995-present, which mostly aligns with the period post-BRAC of the Navy base at Adak which is why the island is now so sparsely populated. (b) (5)
```

I spent some time looking up the history of the town/island and NMFS is correct that military presence is essentially the only reason the town existed at all. Prior to the early 19th century the island was used infrequently by Aleut tribes for hunting. Adak didn't really exist prior to the Army/Navy creating it as an outpost in 1942 during WWII to fend off Japanese advance in the Aleutian Islands. The first time it was included in the census was in 1970 as the Adak Naval Station, it wasn't recognized as its own town until 2000. Peak habitation was 5-10K people when the base was operating and is now down to a few hundred people. The entire island, minus the National Wildlife refuge, was transferred to the Aleut Corporation after the base was BRAC'd and is essentially private property. While the base had nothing to do with the strandings, and I don't think the language in the beginning implies that, and I agree with NMFS that you can't really discuss Adak without mentioning the military history since otherwise it wouldn't exist. I cut down the text a little bit, so let me know if the edits are acceptable.

Summary of other edits:



I will provide in the email transmittal the comments and documentation provided by CAPT [6] for NMFS to check on MSR applications and MMPA permits as potential additional sources of anthropogenic noise that they may have overlooked.

v/r

```
Marine Resources Specialist
Chief of Naval Operations
Energy and Environmental Readiness Division, N454
2000 Navy Pentagon, Rm 2D253
Washington DC 20350-2000
P: (b) (6)
F: (b) (6)
Cell: (b) (6)
** Primary line during telework due to COVID restrictions
```

```
-----Original Message-----
From: (b) (6) CIV USN USFFC (USA) (b) (6) >
Sent: Wednesday, February 17, 2021 5:05 PM
To: (b) (6) CAPT USN COMPACFLT N46 (USA) (b) (6) ;
(b) (6) M CIV USN DCNO N4 (USA) (b) (6) ;
(b) (6) CIV USN COMPACFLT (USA) (b) (6) ;
(CAPT USN DCNO N4 (USA) (b) (6) ;
(CIV USN CONTROL (USA) (CIV USN CONTROL (USA) (CIV USN CONTROL (USA) (USA) (CIV USN CONTROL (USA) (USA)
```

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COMPACELT PEARL HI (USA) (6)
CIV USN COMPACFLT PEARL HI (USA) (6)
         CIV USN USFFC (USA) < (b) (6
CAPT USN USFFC (USA) (b) (6)
Cc: (b) (6)
                   CIV USN DCNO N4 (USA)
            CIV USN COMPACFLT PEARL HI (USA) (b)
               CIV USN COMPACFLT PEARL HI (USA) (b)
              CDR USN COMPACFLT (USA) < (b) (6)
Subject: RE: Fwd: For NAVY Review: Webstory on Alaska beaked whales
b) (6) reviewed and have no additional comments (b) (5)
            Kodiak (west of GOA) to Adak is 1040 airline miles.
b) (5)
These are only my comments. can weigh in with anything additional.
----Original Message-----
                CAPT USN COMPACFLT N46 (USA) (b) (6)
From: (b) (6)
Sent: Wednesday, February 17, 2021 4:50 PM
To: (b) (6) (b) (6) M CIV USN DCNO N4 (USA) < (b) (6) (6) navy mil>;
                CIV USN COMPACFLT (USA) (b)
       CAPT USN DCNO N4 (USA) (b) (6)
CDR USN DCNO N4 (USA) (b) (6)
                                                              CIV USN
COMPACFLT PEARL HI (USA) (b)
CIV USN COMPACFLT PEARL HI (USA) < (b) (6)
     CIV USN USFFC (USA) < (b) (6)
   CIV USN USFFC (USA) (b) (6
                                                               CAPT
USN USFFC (USA) < (b) (6)
Cc: (b) (6)
                  CIV USN DCNO N4 (USA) (6)
            CIV USN COMPACFLT PEARL HI (USA) < (b) (6
               CIV USN COMPACFLT PEARL HI (USA) < (b)
              CDR USN COMPACFLT (USA) (6)
Subject: RE: Fwd: For NAVY Review: Webstory on Alaska beaked whales
Okay (b) (5)
V/r.
----Original Message-----
From: (b) (6) (b) (6) M CIV USN DCNO N4 (USA) < (b) (6) (6) (6) navy mil>
Sent: Wednesday, February 17, 2021 11:46 AM
To: (b) (6)
              CAPT USN COMPACFLT N46 (USA) (b) (6)
                CIV USN COMPACFLT (USA) (6)
       CAPT USN DCNO N4 (USA) (b) (6)
CDR USN DCNO N4 (USA) (6)
                                                              CIV USN
COMPACFLT PEARL HI (USA) (b)
CIV USN COMPACFLT PEARL HI (USA) < 6
      CIV USN USFFC (USA) (b) (6
   CIV USN USFFC (USA) <
USN USFFC (USA) < (b) (6)
                  CIV USN DCNO N4 (USA) (b) (6)
```

```
(b) (6)

CIV USN COMPACFLT PEARL HI (USA) (b) (6)

CIV USN COMPACFLT PEARL HI (USA) (b) (6)

CDR USN COMPACFLT (USA) (b) (6)
```

Subject: RE: Fwd: For NAVY Review: Webstory on Alaska beaked whales

## (b) (6)

We provided them comments that they should go an inquire about MSR permits in the area. We gave them that input back in late 2019/early 2020, but we haven't had much engagement with NMFS in the last year to know if they investigated that or not. (b) (5)

Their look at the earthquakes and seismic detections via the USGS Alaska Volcano Observatory only occurred at the Navy's prodding, when we provided them information showing detections relevant to a few of the strandings. I think (5) (6) actually found some of that information.

In the email providing our comments on the webstory, I will relay that if they want to do further inquiry we suggest they look into the MSR issue and MMPA permits again, and I will attach the documents you provided. (5)

## (b) (6)

```
----Original Message-----
From: (b) (6)
                CAPT USN COMPACFLT N46 (USA) (b) (6)
Sent: Wednesday, February 17, 2021 4:36 PM
                  CIV USN COMPACFLT (USA) (6)
b) (6) (b) (6) M CIV USN DCNO N4 (USA)
             CAPT USN DCNO N4 (USA)
       CDR USN DCNO N4 (USA) (b) (6)
CIV USN COMPACFLT PEARL HI (USA) (b)
       CIV USN COMPACFLT PEARL HI (USA) (b) (6)
             CIV USN USFFC (USA) (b) (6)
         CIV USN USFFC (USA) (6)
CAPT USN USFFC (USA) < (b) (6)
Cc: (b) (6)
                 CIV USN DCNO N4 (USA) < (b) (6
            CIV USN COMPACFLT PEARL HI (USA) (b
              CIV USN COMPACFLT PEARL HI (USA)
             CDR USN COMPACFLT (USA) (6)
```

## (b) (6)

Some comments and proposed edits.

## We have all the documents related to ones that CPF was asked to review from OPNAV N3/5 and I glanced at some from 2018 today and notice at least two in that area around that time. And I pulled out one in attached files (more files related but these pieces caught my eye) which show sonobuoy use and track northwest of Adak requested in timeframe by a Japan vessel. (b) (5)

Subject: RE: Fwd: For NAVY Review: Webstory on Alaska beaked whales

```
(b) (5)
V/r,
```

CAPT (b) (6) , JAGC, USN Fleet Environmental Counsel U.S. Pacific Fleet (N465) 250 Makalapa Drive (Bldg 251) Pearl Harbor, Hawaii 96860 (b) (6)

ATTORNEY CONFIDENTIALITY NOTICE--This e-mail and any attachments may contain legally privileged attorney work product or information protected under the attorney-client privilege, both of which are protected from disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act, 5 USC § 552 and not subject to discovery or other release. Do not release to unauthorized persons. If you are not the intended recipient of this information, please notify me immediately by return e-mail and then delete all copies of this message. This e-mail may contain FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY (FOUO) information which must be protected under the Privacy Act.

```
----Original Message----
From: (b) (6)
                      CIV USN COMPACFLT (USA) (6)
Sent: Wednesday, February 17, 2021 8:29 AM
To: (b) (6) (b) (6) M CIV USN DCNO N4 (USA) <(b) (6) (6) (6) navy mil>;
             CAPT USN DCNO N4 (USA) (b) (6
       CDR USN DCNO N4 (USA) (b) (6
CAPT USN COMPACFLT N46 (USA)
                                                                CIV USN
COMPACELT PEARL HI (USA) (b) (6
CIV USN COMPACFLT PEARL HI (USA) (6)
     CIV USN USFFC (USA) (b)
    CIV USN USFFC (USA) (b)
USN USFFC (USA) (b) (6)
Cc: (b) (6)
                 CIV USN DCNO N4 (USA) (b) (6)
            CIV USN COMPACFLT PEARL HI (USA) (b)
              CIV USN COMPACFLT PEARL HI (USA) (b
           CAPT USN COMPACFLT N46 (USA)
       CDR USN COMPACFLT (USA) (6)
Subject: RE: Fwd: For NAVY Review: Webstory on Alaska beaked whales
(b) (6)
```

Some comments from me. Also cc:ing CPF personnel.

(b) (6)

Work cell: (b) (6) Email: (b) (6)

From: (b) (6) (b) (6) M CIV USN DCNO N4 (USA) < (b) (6) (b) (6) navy mil> Sent: Wednesday, February 17, 2021 7:59 AM To: (b) (6) CAPT USN DCNO N4 (USA) CDR USN DCNO N4 (USA) CAPT USN COMPACFLT N46 (USA) CIV CIV USN USN COMPACFLT (USA) (6) COMPACELT PEARL HI (USA) CIV USN COMPACFLT PEARL HI (USA) (b) (6) CIV USN USFFC (USA) (b) (6) CIV USN USFFC (USA) (b) USN USFFC (USA) < (b) (6) Cc: (b) (6) CIV USN DCNO N4 (USA) < (b) (6) Subject: RE: [Non-DoD Source] Fwd: For NAVY Review: Webstory on Alaska beaked whales Importance: High

All,

I received the following email/attachment from NMFS public affairs staff. We provided comments to NOAA on a peer review publication they were developing on beaked whale strandings in Adak Alaska a couple of years ago. It seemed like that publication was dead or significantly delayed. This is the first outreach on this issue in over a year. It looks like they have moved forward with the publication:

Savage et al. 2021. Stejneger's beaked whale strandings in Alaska 1995-2020. Marine Mammal Science.

And the attached word document is a webstory that NOAA intends to roll out to coincide with the study's publication. They are allowing us a review of the webstory for input. I do not have a timeline for comments, but please provide input NLT COB Friday.

N4J – Do I need to reach out to CHINFO to clear this, or for situational awareness? What about DASNE?

v/r

## (b) (6) (b) (6)

Marine Resources Specialist
Chief of Naval Operations
Energy and Environmental Readiness Division, N454
2000 Navy Pentagon, Rm 2D253
Washington DC 20350-2000
P: (b) (6)

Cell: (b) (6) \*\* Primary line during telework due to COVID restrictions

From: (b) (6) D CIV USN NSWC CRD BDA MD (US) (b) (6) On Behalf Of NSWCCD, CPAO

Sent: Wednesday, February 17, 2021 9:15 AM

To: (b) (6) (b) (6) M CIV USN DCNO N4 (USA) < (b) (6) (b) (6) navy mil>
Cc: NSWCCD, CPAO <CRDIVCPAO fct@navy.mil>
Subject: FW: [Non-DoD Source] Fwd: For NAVY Review: Webstory on Alaska beaked whales

Good Morning (b) (6)

I'm forwarding this email sent to our public affairs mailbox from Julie Fair (NOAA Fisheries), re: review/clearance of her story.

Thanks and Vr/(b) (6)

(b) (6) Public Affairs mailbox/webmail POC Public Affairs Office
NSWC Carderock Division
mailto:CRDIVCPAO fct@navy mil





```
From:
                                 CIV USN USFFC (USA)
To:
                                       USN USFFC (USA); Kitchen, Danielle M CIV USN DCNO N4 (USA);
                                                         CIV USN COMPACFLT (USA);
                  DCNO N4 (USA); (b) (6)
                                          CDR USN DCNO N4 (USA); (b) (6
CIV USN COMPACELT PEARL HI (USA);
                                                                                 CIV USN COMPACELT PEARL HI
                  (USA)
                           <u>CIV USN DCNO N4 (USA)</u> (b) (6
CIV USN COMPACFLT PEARL HI (USA); (l
Cc:
                                                                   CIV USN COMPACFLT PEARL HI (USA); (b) (6)
                                                                       CDR USN COMPACFLT (USA)
Subject:
                  RE: Fwd: For NAVY Review: Webstory on Alaska beaked whales
Date:
                  Thursday, February 18, 2021 2:18:28 AM
        I have no additional comments.
----Original Message--
                          CIV USN USFFC (USA)
Sent: Thursday, February 18, 2021 6:41 AM
To: (b) (b)
                                                                   navy mil>;
                       CIV USN DCNO N4 (USA) <
                CIV USN USFFC (USA)
       CAPT USN COMPACFLT N46 (USA) (6)
      CIV USN COMPACFLT (USA) (6)
CAPT USN DCNO N4 (USA) (6)
                                                                       CDR USN
                                                             CIV USN COMPACELT
DCNO N4 (USA) (b) (6
PEARL HI (USA)
                                                                   CIV USN
COMPACELT PEARL HI (USA) (b) (6)
CAPT USN USFFC (USA) (b) (6
Cc: (b) (6)
                      CIV USN DCNO N4 (USA) < (6)
               CIV USN COMPACFLT PEARL HI (USA)
                           COMPACELT PEARL HI (USA)
                CDR USN COMPACFLT (USA) (6)
Subject: RE: Fwd: For NAVY Review: Webstory on Alaska beaked whales
b) (6)
 Concur with your edits. In addition, suggest a minor edit to the
paragraph below:
Since AVO determined that the seismic activity were anthropogenic then
recommend (b) (5)
```

---Original Message----

CAPT USN USFFC

```
From: (b) (6) (b) (6) M CIV USN DCNO N4 (USA) < (b) (6
Sent: Wednesday, February 17, 2021 9:18 PM
                 CIV USN USFFC (USA) (b) (6
           CAPT USN COMPACFLT N46 (USA) (b) (6)
       CIV USN COMPACFLT (USA) (b) (6)
CAPT USN DCNO N4 (USA) (b) (6)
                                                            CDR USN
                                                   CIV USN COMPACFLT
DCNO N4 (USA)
PEARL HI (USA)
                                                         CIV USN
COMPACFLT PEARL HI (USA) (b)
    CIV USN USFFC (USA) (b)
                                                             CAPT
USN USFFC (USA) < (b) (6)
                  CIV USN DCNO N4 (USA) <
Cc: (b) (6)
            CIV USN COMPACFLT PEARL HI (USA) <
              CIV USN COMPACFLT PEARL HI (USA)
              CDR USN COMPACFLT (USA) < (b) (6)
Subject: RE: Fwd: For NAVY Review: Webstory on Alaska beaked whales
Importance: High
```

All,

I reviewed all edits received to date, and would like to submit the attached as the Navy's consolidated response.

The period of review for the strandings was 1995-present, which mostly aligns with the period post-BRAC of the Navy base at Adak which is why the island is now so sparsely populated. (b) (5)

I spent some time looking up the history of the town/island and NMFS is

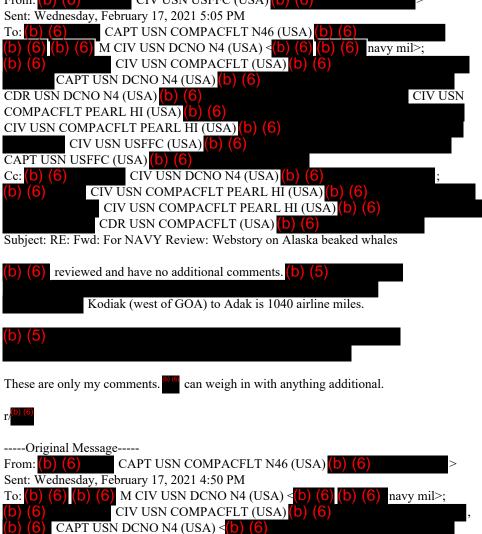
correct that military presence is essentially the only reason the town existed at all. Prior to the early 19th century the island was used infrequently by Aleut tribes for hunting. Adak didn't really exist prior to the Army/Navy creating it as an outpost in 1942 during WWII to fend off Japanese advance in the Aleutian Islands. The first time it was included in the census was in 1970 as the Adak Naval Station, it wasn't recognized as its own town until 2000. Peak habitation was 5-10K people when the base was operating and is now down to a few hundred people. The entire island, minus the National Wildlife refuge, was transferred to the Aleut Corporation after the base was BRAC'd and is essentially private property. While the base had nothing to do with the strandings, and I don't think the language in the beginning implies that, and I agree with NMFS that you can't really discuss Adak without mentioning the military history since otherwise it wouldn't exist. I cut down the text a little bit, so let me know if the edits are acceptable.

Summary of other edits:

```
(b) (5)
```

I will provide in the email transmittal the comments and documentation provided by CAPT (6) (6) for NMFS to check on MSR applications and MMPA permits as potential additional sources of anthropogenic noise that they may have overlooked.

```
v/r
(b) (6) (b) (6)
Marine Resources Specialist
Chief of Naval Operations
Energy and Environmental Readiness Division, N454
2000 Navy Pentagon, Rm 2D253
Washington DC 20350-2000
                  ** Primary line during telework due to COVID restrictions
----Original Message-----
                     CIV USN USFFC (USA) (b) (6)
                CAPT USN COMPACFLT N46 (USA) (b) (6)
```



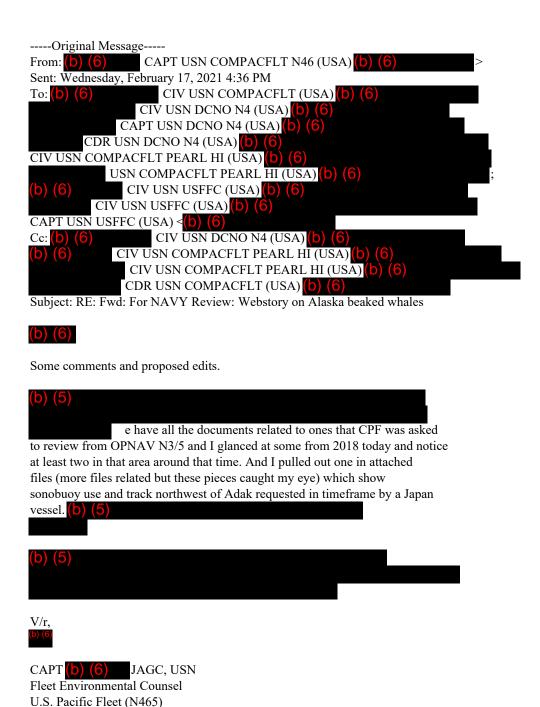
```
CDR USN DCNO N4 (USA)
                                                          CIV USN
COMPACFLT PEARL HI (USA) (b
CIV USN COMPACFLT PEARL HI (USA) (6)
6 CIV USN USFFC (USA) (6)
    CIV USN USFFC (USA)
USN USFFC (USA) < 6
                 CIV USN DCNO N4 (USA) (b) (6)
            CIV USN COMPACFLT PEARL HI (USA) (b) (6
              CIV USN COMPACFLT PEARL HI (USA)
             CDR USN COMPACFLT (USA) (6)
Subject: RE: Fwd: For NAVY Review: Webstory on Alaska beaked whales
Okay(b) (6)
V/r,
----Original Message----
From: (b) (6) (b) (6) M CIV USN DCNO N4 (USA) < (b) (6) (6) navy mil>
Sent: Wednesday, February 17, 2021 11:46 AM
              CAPT USN COMPACFLT N46 (USA) < (b) (6)
               CIV USN COMPACFLT (USA) (6)
      CAPT USN DCNO N4 (USA) (b) (6)
CDR USN DCNO N4 (USA) (b) (6)
                                                          CIV USN
COMPACFLT PEARL HI (USA) (6)
CIV USN COMPACFLT PEARL HI (USA) (b) (6)
     CIV USN USFFC (USA) (6)
   CIV USN USFFC (USA)
USN USFFC (USA) (b) (6)
                 CIV USN DCNO N4 (USA) (b) (6)
Cc: (b) (6)
            CIV USN COMPACFLT PEARL HI (USA)
              CIV USN COMPACFLT PEARL HI (USA)
             CDR USN COMPACFLT (USA) (6)
Subject: RE: Fwd: For NAVY Review: Webstory on Alaska beaked whales
```

(b) (6)

We provided them comments that they should go an inquire about MSR permits in the area. We gave them that input back in late 2019/early 2020, but we haven't had much engagement with NMFS in the last year to know if they investigated that or not. (b) (5)

Their look at the earthquakes and seismic detections via the USGS Alaska Volcano Observatory only occurred at the Navy's prodding, when we provided them information showing detections relevant to a few of the strandings. I think (5) (6) actually found some of that information.

In the email providing our comments on the webstory, I will relay that if they want to do further inquiry we suggest they look into the MSR issue and MMPA permits again, and I will attach the documents you provided. However, I intend to remove the MSR/MMPA comments from the actual edits to the webstory text.



ATTORNEY CONFIDENTIALITY NOTICE--This e-mail and any attachments may contain legally privileged attorney work product or information protected under the attorney-client privilege, both of which are protected from disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act, 5 USC § 552 and not subject to discovery or other release. Do not release to unauthorized persons. If you are not the intended recipient of this information, please notify me immediately by return e-mail and then delete all copies of this message. This e-mail may contain FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY (FOUO) information which must be protected under the Privacy Act.

250 Makalapa Drive (Bldg 251) Pearl Harbor, Hawaii 96860

b) (6)

```
----Original Message----
From: (b) (6)
                      CIV USN COMPACFLT (USA) (b) (6)
Sent: Wednesday, February 17, 2021 8:29 AM
To: (b) (6) (b) (6) M CIV USN DCNO N4 (USA) < (b) (6) (6) (6) navy mil>;
             CAPT USN DCNO N4 (USA) (b) (6)
       CDR USN DCNO N4 (USA)
CAPT USN COMPACFLT N46 (USA)
                                                                CIV USN
COMPACFLT PEARL HI (USA)
CIV USN COMPACFLT PEARL HI (USA) (b) (6)
      CIV USN USFFC (USA) (b) (6
   CIV USN USFFC (USA) (b) (6
USN USFFC (USA) < (b) (6)
                  CIV USN DCNO N4 (USA) (6)
            CIV USN COMPACFLT PEARL HI (USA)
             CIV USN COMPACFLT PEARL HI (USA) (b
           CAPT USN COMPACFLT N46 (USA) (6)
       CDR USN COMPACFLT (USA) <
Subject: RE: Fwd: For NAVY Review: Webstory on Alaska beaked whales
(b) (6)
```

Some comments from me. Also cc:ing CPF personnel.

```
(b) (6)
Environmental Readiness Division (N465), Southwest Detachment US Pacific Fleet
Work cell (b) (6)
Email: (b) (6)
```

```
From: (b) (6) (b) (6) M CIV USN DCNO N4 (USA) < (b) (6) (6) navy mil>
Sent: Wednesday, February 17, 2021 7:59 AM
               CAPT USN DCNO N4 (USA) (b) (6)
       CDR USN DCNO N4 (USA)
CAPT USN COMPACFLT N46 (USA)
                                                                    CIV
USN COMPACFLT (USA) < 6
                                                        CIV USN
COMPACFLT PEARL HI (USA)
CIV USN COMPACFLT PEARL HI (USA) (b) (6)
      CIV USN USFFC (USA) (6)
     IV USN USFFC (USA) (b)
                                                              CAPT
USN USFFC (USA) (b) (6)
Cc: (b) (6)
                  CIV USN DCNO N4 (USA) (6)
Subject: RE: [Non-DoD Source] Fwd: For NAVY Review: Webstory on Alaska
beaked whales
Importance: High
```

All,

I received the following email/attachment from NMFS public affairs staff. We provided comments to NOAA on a peer review publication they were developing on beaked whale strandings in Adak Alaska a couple of years ago. It seemed

like that publication was dead or significantly delayed. This is the first outreach on this issue in over a year. It looks like they have moved forward with the publication:

Savage et al. 2021. Stejneger's beaked whale strandings in Alaska 1995-2020. Marine Mammal Science.

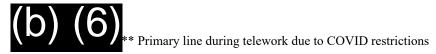
And the attached word document is a webstory that NOAA intends to roll out to coincide with the study's publication. They are allowing us a review of the webstory for input. I do not have a timeline for comments, but please provide input NLT COB Friday.

N4J – Do I need to reach out to CHINFO to clear this, or for situational awareness? What about DASNE?

v/r

## (b) (6) (b) (6)

Marine Resources Specialist Chief of Naval Operations Energy and Environmental Readiness Division, N454 2000 Navy Pentagon, Rm 2D253 Washington DC 20350-2000



From: (b) (6) CIV USN NSWC CRD BDA MD (US) (b) (6) On

Behalf Of NSWCCD, CPAO

Sent: Wednesday, February 17, 2021 9:15 AM

To: (b) (6) (b) (6) M CIV USN DCNO N4 (USA) < (b) (6) (b) (6) navy mil>

Cc: NSWCCD, CPAO <CRDIVCPAO fct@navy.mil>

Subject: FW: [Non-DoD Source] Fwd: For NAVY Review: Webstory on Alaska

beaked whales

Good Morning (b) (6)

I'm forwarding this email sent to our public affairs mailbox from Julie Fair (NOAA Fisheries), re: review/clearance of her story.

Thanks and Vr/(b) (6)

(b) (6) , Public Affairs mailbox/webmail POC

Public Affairs Office

**NSWC Carderock Division** 

mailto:CRDIVCPAO fct@navy mil

## Not Agency Record Referred to NOAA



https://no-click.mil/?http://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/alaska

```
From:
                                      CDR USN DCNO N4 (USA)
                     Kitchen, Danielle M CIV USN DCNO N4 (USA
To:
                     COMPACELT N46 (USA)
                     (USA); (b) (6)
PEARL HI (USA
                                            IV USN COMPACELT PEARL HI (USA);
                                                         CIV USN USFFC (USA)
                                                                                                 CAPT USN USFFC (USA)
Cc:
                                       CIV USN DCNO N4 (USA):
                                                                               CIV USN COMPACELT PEARL HI (USA);
                                       N COMPACELT PEARL HI (US
                                                                                    CDR USN COMPACFLT (USA)
Subject:
                     RE: Fwd: For NAVY Review: Webstory on Alaska beaked whales
                     Thursday, February 18, 2021 3:29:14 AM
Date:
```

## (b) (6)

No objections to the final draft you sent, I do think we should socialize the final with DASN(E) for their awareness prior to sending back to NOAA.

V/r,

CDR, JAGC, USN
Deputy Legal Counsel
OPNAV N4 (Fleet Readiness & Logistics)
2000 Navy Pentagon
Room 2D253
Washington, D.C. 20350



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Cc: (b) (6)

CIV USN DCNO N4 (USA) < (b) (6)

CIV USN COMPACFLT PEARL HI (USA) (b) (6)

CIV USN COMPACFLT PEARL HI (USA) (b) (6)

CDR USN COMPACFLT (USA) (b) (6)

Subject PEr Ford For NAVY Project Webstern Aleks basked wheles

Subject: RE: Fwd: For NAVY Review: Webstory on Alaska beaked whales

Importance: High

All,

I reviewed all edits received to date, and would like to submit the attached as the Navy's consolidated response.

The period of review for the strandings was 1995-present, which mostly aligns with the period post-BRAC of the Navy base at Adak which is why the island is now so sparsely populated. (b) (5) I spent some time looking up the history of the town/island and NMFS is correct that military presence is essentially the only reason the town existed at all. Prior to the early 19th century the island was used infrequently by Aleut tribes for hunting. Adak didn't really exist prior to the Army/Navy creating it as an outpost in 1942 during WWII to fend off Japanese advance in the Aleutian Islands. The first time it was included in the census was in 1970 as the Adak Naval Station, it wasn't recognized as its own town until 2000. Peak habitation was 5-10K people when the base was operating and is now down to a few hundred people. The entire island, minus the National Wildlife refuge, was transferred to the Aleut Corporation after the base was BRAC'd and is essentially private property. While the base had nothing to do with the strandings, and I don't think the language in the beginning implies that, and I agree with NMFS that you can't really discuss

Summary of other edits:

acceptable.



Adak without mentioning the military history since otherwise it wouldn't exist. I cut down the text a little bit, so let me know if the edits are

I will provide in the email transmittal the comments and documentation provided by CAPT (5) (6) for NMFS to check on MSR applications and MMPA permits as potential additional sources of anthropogenic noise that they may have overlooked.

v/r



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2000 Navy Pentagon, Rm 2D253
Washington DC 20350-2000
                ** Primary line during telework due to COVID restrictions
----Original Message-----
From: (b) (6)
                    CIV USN USFFC (USA) < 6
Sent: Wednesday, February 17, 2021 5:05 PM
             CAPT USN COMPACFLT N46 (USA) (b) (6)
    6) (b) (6) M CIV USN DCNO N4 (USA) < (b) (6) (b) (6)
                                                       navy mil>;
                CIV USN COMPACFLT (USA)
       CAPT USN DCNO N4 (USA) (b) (6)
CDR USN DCNO N4 (USA) < (b) (6)
                                                              CIV USN
COMPACFLT PEARL HI (USA) (b)
CIV USN COMPACFLT PEARL HI (USA) (b) (6)
             USN USFFC (USA) (b) (6
CAPT USN USFFC (USA) (b) (6
                   CIV USN DCNO N4 (USA) (b) (6)
Cc: (b) (6)
            CIV USN COMPACFLT PEARL HI (USA) (b)
               CIV USN COMPACFLT PEARL HI (USA) (6
              CDR USN COMPACFLT (USA) (6)
Subject: RE: Fwd: For NAVY Review: Webstory on Alaska beaked whales
   (6) reviewed and have no additional comments. (b) (5)
                   (west of GOA) to Adak is 1040 airline miles.
These are only my comments. can weigh in with anything additional.
----Original Message-----
                 CAPT USN COMPACFLT N46 (USA) < (b) (6)
From: (6)
Sent: Wednesday, February 17, 2021 4:50 PM
To: (b) (6) (b) (6) M CIV USN DCNO N4 (USA) < (b) (6) (b) (6) navy mil>;
                 CIV USN COMPACFLT (USA) (b)
       CAPT USN DCNO N4 (USA) (6)
CDR USN DCNO N4 (USA) (6)
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COMPACFLT PEARL HI (USA)
CIV USN COMPACFLT PEARL HI (USA) (b) (6
      CIV USN USFFC (USA) (6)
    CIV USN USFFC (USA) (b)
USN USFFC (USA) (b) (6)
Cc: (b) (6)
                  CIV USN DCNO N4 (USA) (6)
            CIV USN COMPACFLT PEARL HI (USA) (b
               CIV USN COMPACFLT PEARL HI (USA)
              CDR USN COMPACFLT (USA) (b) (6
Subject: RE: Fwd: For NAVY Review: Webstory on Alaska beaked whales
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Chief of Naval Operations

Energy and Environmental Readiness Division, N454

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Okay (b) (5)
V/r,
----Original Message-----
From: (b) (6) (b) (6) M CIV USN DCNO N4 (USA) < (b) (6)
Sent: Wednesday, February 17, 2021 11:46 AM
To: (b) (6)
               CAPT USN COMPACFLT N46 (USA) <
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       CAPT USN DCNO N4 (USA) (b) (6)
CDR USN DCNO N4 (USA) (b) (6)
                                                                  CIV USN
COMPACFLT PEARL HI (USA) (b)
CIV USN COMPACFLT PEARL HI (USA) (b) (6)
      CIV USN USFFC (USA) (b) (6)
    CIV USN USFFC (USA) (b) (6
                                                                   CAPT
USN USFFC (USA) (b) (6)
Cc: (b) (6)
                    CIV USN DCNO N4 (USA) (6)
              CIV USN COMPACFLT PEARL HI (USA)
                CIV USN COMPACFLT PEARL HI (USA)
               CDR USN COMPACFLT (USA) (6)
Subject: RE: Fwd: For NAVY Review: Webstory on Alaska beaked whales
We provided them comments that they should go an inquire about MSR permits
in the area. We gave them that input back in late 2019/early 2020, but we
haven't had much engagement with NMFS in the last year to know if they
investigated that or not. (b) (5)
            Their look at the earthquakes and seismic detections via the
USGS Alaska Volcano Observatory only occurred at the Navy's prodding, when
we provided them information showing detections relevant to a few of the
strandings. I think (6) (6) actually found some of that information.
In the email providing our comments on the webstory, I will relay that if
they want to do further inquiry we suggest they look into the MSR issue and
MMPA permits again, and I will attach the documents you provided. (b) (5)
----Original Message----
From (b) (6)
                  CAPT USN COMPACFLT N46 (USA) (6)
Sent: Wednesday, February 17, 2021 4:36 PM
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        CDR USN DCNO N4 (USA) < (6)
CIV USN COMPACFLT PEARL HI (USA)
        CIV USN COMPACFLT PEARL HI (USA) (b) (6)
               CIV USN USFFC (USA) (b) (6)
          CIV USN USFFC (USA) (b)
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CAPT USN USFFC (USA) < (b) (6) 

CIV USN DCNO N4 (USA) < (b) (6) 

CIV USN COMPACFLT PEARL HI (USA) (b) (6) 

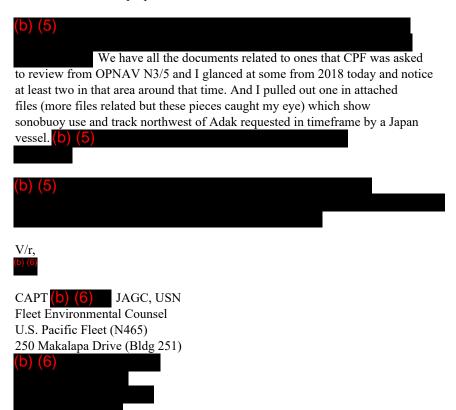
CIV USN COMPACFLT PEARL HI (USA) (b) (6) 

CDR USN COMPACFLT (USA) (b) (6)
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Subject: RE: Fwd: For NAVY Review: Webstory on Alaska beaked whales

## (b) (6)

Some comments and proposed edits.



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-----Original Message-----
From: (b) (6) CIV USN COMPACFLT (USA) < (b) (6) Sent: Wednesday, February 17, 2021 8:29 AM
To: (b) (6) CIV USN DCNO N4 (USA) (b) (6)
CAPT USN DCNO N4 (USA) (b) (6)
CDR USN DCNO N4 (USA) (b) (6)
CAPT USN COMPACFLT N46 (USA) (b) (6) CIV USN
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COMPACFLT PEARL HI (USA) < (b) (6)

CIV USN COMPACFLT PEARL HI (USA) (b) (6)

CIV USN USFFC (USA) (b) (6)

CIV USN USFFC (USA) (b) (6)

CIV USN DCNO N4 (USA) < (b) (6)

CIV USN COMPACFLT PEARL HI (USA) (b) (6)

CIV USN COMPACFLT PEARL HI (USA) (b) (6)

CAPT USN COMPACFLT N46 (USA) (b) (6)

CDR USN COMPACFLT (USA) (b) (6)
```

Subject: RE: Fwd: For NAVY Review: Webstory on Alaska beaked whales

## (b) (6)

Some comments from me. Also cc:ing CPF personnel.

```
(b) (6)
Environmental Readiness Division (N465), Southwest Detachment US Pacific Fleet
Work cell: (b) (6)
Email: (b) (6)
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From: (b) (6) (b) (6) M CIV USN DCNO N4 (USA) < (b) (6) (6) (6) navy mil>
Sent: Wednesday, February 17, 2021 7:59 AM
                CAPT USN DCNO N4 (USA) (6)
       CDR USN DCNO N4 (USA) (b
                                                                   CIV
CAPT USN COMPACFLT N46 (USA)
USN COMPACFLT (USA) (6)
                                                        CIV USN
COMPACFLT PEARL HI (USA)
CIV USN COMPACFLT PEARL HI (USA) (6)
     CIV USN USFFC (USA)
    CIV USN USFFC (USA)
USN USFFC (USA) (b) (6
                  CIV USN DCNO N4 (USA) (6)
Subject: RE: [Non-DoD Source] Fwd: For NAVY Review: Webstory on Alaska
beaked whales
Importance: High
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All.

I received the following email/attachment from NMFS public affairs staff. We provided comments to NOAA on a peer review publication they were developing on beaked whale strandings in Adak Alaska a couple of years ago. It seemed like that publication was dead or significantly delayed. This is the first outreach on this issue in over a year. It looks like they have moved forward with the publication:

Savage et al. 2021. Stejneger's beaked whale strandings in Alaska 1995-2020. Marine Mammal Science.

And the attached word document is a webstory that NOAA intends to roll out to coincide with the study's publication. They are allowing us a review of the webstory for input. I do not have a timeline for comments, but please provide input NLT COB Friday.

N4J – Do I need to reach out to CHINFO to clear this, or for situational awareness? What about DASNE?

V/r

## (b) (6) (b) (6)

Marine Resources Specialist Chief of Naval Operations Energy and Environmental Readiness Division, N454 2000 Navy Pentagon, Rm 2D253 Washington DC 20350-2000

P: (b) (6) F: (b) (6) Cell: (b) (6

\*\* Primary line during telework due to COVID restrictions

From: (b) (6) D CIV USN NSWC CRD BDA MD (US) (b) (6) Or

Behalf Of NSWCCD, CPAO

Sent: Wednesday, February 17, 2021 9:15 AM

To: (b) (6) (b) (6) M CIV USN DCNO N4 (USA) < (b) (6) (6) navy mil>

Cc: NSWCCD, CPAO <CRDIVCPAO fct@navy.mil>

Subject: FW: [Non-DoD Source] Fwd: For NAVY Review: Webstory on Alaska

beaked whales

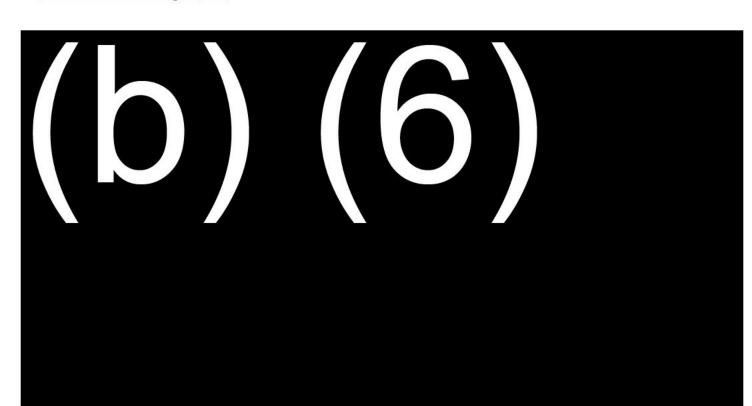
Good Morning (b) (6)

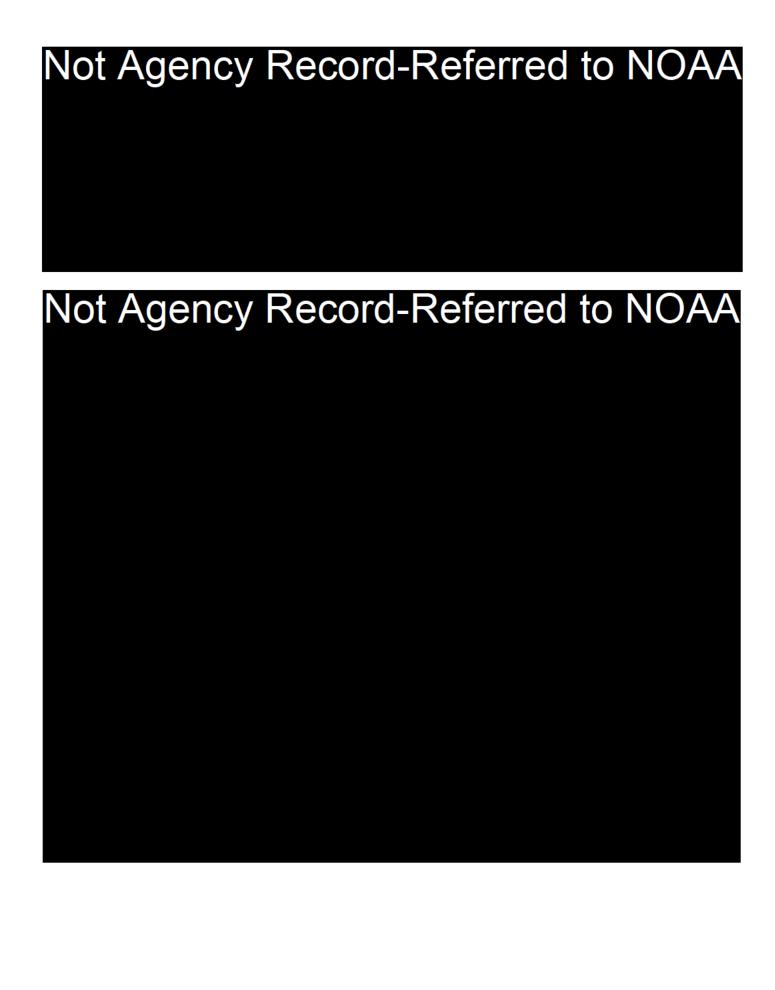
I'm forwarding this email sent to our public affairs mailbox from Julie Fair (NOAA Fisheries), re: review/clearance of her story.

Thanks and Vr. (b) (6)

(b) (6) , Public Affairs mailbox/webmail POC

Public Affairs Office
NSWC Carderock Division
mailto:CRDIVCPAO fct@navy mil





# (b) (6)

Not Agency Record-Referred to NOAA